

CHANNEL 4 NEWS ACCUSED OF CENSORSHIP

Members of UK-based Truth in HIV Testing (TIHT) have accused Channel 4 News of censorship after news editor Jim Gray effectively banned the release of a program, commissioned by Channel 4 News, about the questionable links between HIV and AIDS.

The World AIDS Day news report from award-winning Meditel Productions in London focused on HIV testing and the leading scientists who, for the first time, presented comprehensive data on the profound inaccuracies underlying the links between HIV and AIDS.

The data disputing the theory that HIV causes AIDS was presented at the World AIDS Conference in Geneva in July 1998.

(Source: Continuum magazine, press release, 2 December 1998)

ANTARCTIC CURRENTS COMPLICATE CLIMATE STUDY

Global weather patterns may be much more affected by massive ocean currents than previously suspected.

Scientists have recently discovered the existence of the Antarctic Circumpolar Wave, a complex current moving in a clockwise direction around the Antarctic, in a cycle of eight to nine years.



The current alternates two huge warm-water pools with two huge cold pools, with a temperature difference of only about a degree.

It seems that this massive system is linked to rain and temperature variations in the southern states of Australia, leading some to speculate that its influence is greater than that of the Pacific's El Niño.

Scientists at CSIRO's Atmospheric Division are monitoring these and a third phenomenon, the Indian Ocean Dipole.

(Source: The Sydney Morning Herald, 14 December 1998)

HYPNOSIS IMPROVES TV ADVERT RECOLLECTION!

Mindtec Diagnostics, a market and social research company, describes as "Earth shattering" the results of their new line of research involving hypnosis.

The researchers tested people's responses to TV advertisements, initially in a conscious state and then under hypnosis.

The results showed that people's recollection of a company and brand improved by 75 per cent when hypnotised, compared with when in a normal state.

"It shows they are registering in the subconscious what these commercials were about, but from the top of their mind it wasn't there so much," said Denis Lee, managing director of The Agency, the

Brisbane-based advertising agency working with Mindtec Diagnostics.

"That's what happened all the way through—they are storing opinions and attitudes about products which, asked about consciously, they may not recall, but at the point of purchase there are all those subliminal things stored in the memory that influence the purchasing process."

(Source: The Sydney Morning Herald, 8 December 1998)

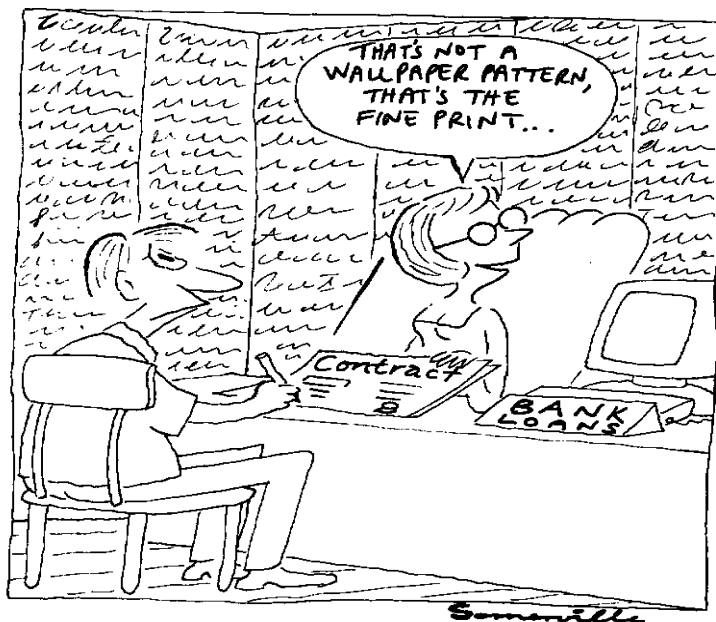
MONSANTO'S UNHOLY GLOBAL GENETICS WAR

The debate over genetically modified organisms (GMOs) could result in a trade war between Europe and the USA.

Public concern is high in Europe over safety and labelling issues surrounding GMOs and has resulted in Europe's environment ministers calling for temporary bans on GMOs until the European Council, Commission and Parliament can agree on how to draft a 1990 directive setting out ground rules under which GMO plants can be approved.

The strength of public opinion is causing a PR headache for Monsanto which is facing public meltdown in the UK and Germany, with a "society-wide" collapse of support for its radical technologies, according to leaked documents.

Monsanto's latest polls and focus groups show that an earlier collapse of support for GMOs has now accelerated, with opposition "skyrocketing" despite a £1 million advertising campaign.



According to the *Guardian Weekly* (27 Dec 1998), Monsanto is about to be prosecuted in the UK for deliberately releasing genetically modified oilseed rape into the countryside.

In the United States, Monsanto stands accused by a growing number of consumer groups of falsifying research data on the safety of its genetically engineered bovine growth hormone which has been injected into 30 per cent of US dairy cows twice a month over the last five years. The Canadian Government's Health Protection Branch recently reviewed all the data from a Monsanto safety study and came up with vastly different conclusions.

Monsanto started its PR slide when it was revealed that its herbicide-resistant Roundup Ready soya beans had been shipped to Europe mixed with ordinary soya beans. Consumers interpreted the move as a ploy to force transgenic soya products down European throats.

In late November, farmers in the Raichur district of India destroyed a field-trial plot of Monsanto's genetically modified cotton plants. They were concerned that pollen from the modified plants would escape into the environment.

A recent survey of 1,000 French consumers, conducted by the TMO company, revealed that only nine per cent expressed a positive opinion about GMOs, while more than half expressed negative feelings. One quarter associated GMOs with danger.

Our thanks go out to Monsanto for allowing us all to become more aware of the serious health, environmental, ethical, legal and marketing issues surrounding genetically modified organisms.

(Sources: *Nature*, vol. 395, 22 Oct 1998, vol. 396, 3 Dec 1998; *New Scientist*, 31 Oct 1998; *ABC News, USA*, www.abcnews.com; *Guardian Weekly, London*, 29 Nov, 27 Dec 1998; *Sydney Morning Herald*, 21 Dec 1998)

THE SKY REALLY IS FALLING!

According to British Antarctic Survey scientists, the ionosphere is 'falling' at the rate of about 200 metres per year. The findings come from an analysis of 600,000 measurements of the ionosphere's height taken over the past 38 years using echo-sounding technology.

Scientists are divided as to whether the ionospheric contraction is a result of greenhouse gases and the depletion of the ozone layer, or whether it is caused by cyclic changes in the Sun and resultant

sunspot activity.

Dr Phil Wilkinson, from the Australian Government's Ionospheric Prediction Service, commented that the ionosphere is modulated strongly by the Sun and that sunspot activity is approaching its peak.

(Sources: *The Australian*, 17 September 1998; *New Scientist*, 26 September 1998)

ISRAELI GERM WARFARE DESIGNED TO KILL ARABS?

Claims made by the London *Sunday Times* last November [1997], that Israel is working on a biological weapon which is genetically targeted against Arabs, received a boost when *Foreign Report*, a Jane's publication which monitors security and defence matters, also reported that Israeli scientists have used South African genetic warfare research in an attempt to develop an "ethnic bullet".

Israeli scientists at super-secret Nes Tziyona biowarfare laboratory near Tel Aviv are attempting to engineer deadly micro-organisms that only attack DNA within the cells of victims with distinctive Arab genes. Nes Tziyona produces a wide range of chemical and biological weapons and is reportedly larger than all Arab and Iranian biowarfare laboratories combined.

The research mirrors biological studies conducted by South African scientists during the apartheid era and disclosed in testimony before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Daan Goosen, head of a South African chemical and biological warfare facility,

said his team was ordered in the 1980s to develop a "pigmentation weapon" to target only black people.

The British Medical Association has become so concerned about the lethal potential of genetically based biological weapons that it has opened an investigation, due to report in January 1999.

(Sources: *The Sunday Times, London*, 15 Nov 1998; *The Australian*, 16 Nov 1998)

DANISH SCIENTISTS DEVELOP ATOM-SIZED COMPUTER CHIP

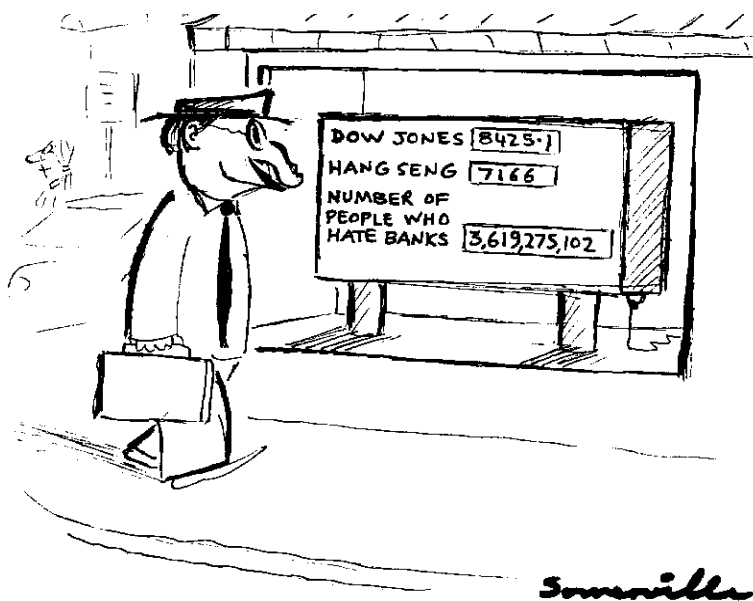
Danish scientists have created a chip where a single atom jumping back and forth could generate the binary code which is the basis of digital information used by computers.

Information stored today on one million CD-ROMs could be stored on a single disc, says doctor of physics François Grey.

Using a scanning tunnelling microscope, a four-man team at the microelectronics centre of the Danish University of Technology was able to remove from a hydrogen layer surface on a silicon chip one of a pair of hydrogen atoms attached to one silicon atom, leaving the remaining hydrogen atom jumping back and forth.

Scientists elsewhere had conducted similar experiments making single atoms jump back and forth, but their work was done with material frozen to near absolute zero temperature. The Danish team is the first to have succeeded in room temperature conditions, Grey said.

(Source: *The Australian*, 3 November 1998)



SMART SURVEILLANCE – 1

British police scientists are close to a breakthrough that will allow CCTV cameras to 'recognise' criminal activity. The technologies utilise leading-edge neural and pattern recognition systems developed for space and defence applications.

Dr Mike Taylor, head of Scotland Yard's technology operations, announced at a recent London conference that it is "perfectly feasible to develop software which can distinguish certain actions", such as the sound of breaking glass, but that the main barrier to date has been overcoming the problems with image quality.

Automatic policing of entire areas could soon become a reality with these advanced CCTV systems.

(Source: Weekly Telegraph, 9–15 Dec 1998)

SMART SURVEILLANCE – 2

Researchers in California have created an Autonomous Observer (AO) robot that could be developed into a surveillance system that follows a target wherever it goes. Currently, other systems can't follow moving objects that are trying to evade detection; if an object disappears from view, the tracking system loses it.

To overcome this, computer scientist Jean-Claude Latombe at Stanford University has developed small mobile robots that not only watch targets but also work out their potential escape routes. The robots can then position themselves for an optimum view.

(Source: New Scientist, 17 October 1998)

IMPLANTS ALLOW HUMANS TO CONTROL COMPUTERS

An American scientist has entered the world of science fiction by implanting electrodes in the brains of disabled people so that they can control a computer by the power of thought.

The implants have enabled two paralysed people to move the cursor on the screen simply by thinking about moving part of their body. They were able to convey messages such as "I'm thirsty" or "Please turn off the light" by pointing the cursor at different icons.

The hope is that eventually patients will be able to communicate complex ideas just by thinking about them.

"If you can run a computer, you can talk to the world," said Dr Ray Bakay, of Emory University in Atlanta, whose team developed the implants.

British Telecom Laboratories near Ipswich, UK, have also done research into implantable chips, including a memory chip which could take data from the eye and store it for a computer.

(Sources: New Scientist, 17 October 1998; The Times, London, www.the-times.co.uk)

THE YEAR 2000 PROBLEM

While predictions vary enormously on the effects of the "millennium bug" (see NEXUS 5/05), we can be sure that there will be widespread awareness of the situation. Indeed, it may be that very 'awareness' that becomes our downfall.

Western governments find themselves

walking the fine line of alerting business and industry to the situation, whilst simultaneously *not* panicking the public. The last thing they want is a run on the banks and panic-buying of essential commodities. An interesting situation...

Meanwhile the Gartner Group, a respected consulting company based in Stamford, Connecticut, released a report in late September 1998 with the following breakdown (pardon the pun) of computer failure-rate predictions:

1) By country

- Level 1 (15%): Australia, Belgium, Bermuda, Canada, Denmark, Holland, Ireland, Israel, Switzerland, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States;

- Level 2 (33%): Brazil, Chile, Finland, France, Hungary, Italy, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Portugal, Singapore, South Korea, Spain, Taiwan;

- Level 3 (50%): Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Bulgaria, Colombia, Czech Republic, Egypt, Germany, Guatemala, India, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Malaysia, North Korea, Poland, Puerto Rico, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela, Yugoslavia;

- Level 4 (66%): Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Chad, China, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Indonesia, Kenya, Laos, Lithuania, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Romania, Russia, Somalia, Sudan, Thailand, Uruguay, Vietnam, Zaire, Zimbabwe.

2) By industry

- Level 1 (15%): banking, computer manufacturing, insurance, investment services, pharmaceuticals;

- Level 2 (33%): aerospace, biotechnology, consulting, discrete manufacturing, heavy equipment, medical equipment, retail, publishing, semiconductors, software, telecoms;

- Level 3 (50%): chemical processing, construction, gas, hospitality, law enforcement, law practices, medical practices, natural gas, ocean shipping, oil, power, pulp and paper, television, transportation, water;

- Level 4 (66%): agriculture/farming, education, food processing, government agencies, health care, municipal services.

Overall, Gartner believes that the Year 2000 problem won't cause the global business meltdown that some analysts had earlier predicted, but it will cause a negative impact on the world economy that will be



felt for three to five years after the event.

(Source: <http://gartner11.gartnerweb.com/public/static/aboutgg/pressrel/testimony1098.html>)

Other items of interest from a variety of news sources include:

- Reserve banks in Australia, USA and Europe plan to have extra cash printed up in case of panic. The Fed will have an extra US\$50 billion to handle extra demand.

- The armed forces of many Western nations, including Australia, Canada, UK and USA, are preparing in case of a temporary social collapse due to lack of food, power, water and transport.

- Few countries are admitting to their real Y2K compliance status. However, Australia, Canada, UK and USA have all announced that the cost of preparing for the new millennium will blow out by billions of dollars respectively.

- Little is being revealed about the effects on national defence systems. The UK Ministry of Defence admitted in December 1998 that nearly 90 per cent of the British Navy's most critical systems, including the Trident nuclear missiles, are still not Y2K compliant.

SECRET PLAN TO TAP ALL COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS

Plans for an international network of centres able to tap mobile phones anywhere in Europe have been prepared by European law enforcement agencies.

Confidential European Union documents leaked in Germany and obtained by the *Observer* outline plans for instant-access centres across Europe, equipped to tap every type of communications system including mobile phones, the Internet, fax machines, pagers and interactive cable television services.

Under the plan, Enfopol 98, European telecommunications companies will be required to build tapping connections into their systems. Each EU country's "interception interface" must be capable of allowing member states to tap communications throughout the EU.

The USA, Canada and Australia are likely to participate in the network, giving the FBI and other non-European security agencies access to communications in Europe.

The leaked document was published in late November by the German Internet magazine, *Telepolis*.

(Source: *The Observer*, London, 6 Dec 1998)

EUROPEAN COURT REMOVES GAG ORDER ON SWISS SCIENTIST WHO REVEALED DANGERS OF MICROWAVED FOOD

Hans Hertel was the first scientist to conceive of and carry out a qualitative study on the effects of microwaved nutrients on the blood and physiology of human beings. This small but well-controlled study pointed the firm finger at the degenerative force of microwave ovens and the food produced in them. Working with Bernard H. Blanc, of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, and the University Institute for Biochemistry, Hertel was one of eight participants in the study.

The conclusion was clear: microwave cooking changed the nutrients so that changes took place in the participants' blood. These were not healthy changes but were changes that could cause deterioration in the human systems.

In 1991 Hans Ulrich Hertel and a Lausanne University professor published a research paper indicating that food cooked in microwave ovens could pose a greater risk to health than food cooked by conventional means.

Significant changes were discovered in the blood of the volunteers who consumed foods cooked in the microwave oven. These changes included a decrease in all haemoglobin values and cholesterol values, especially the HDL (good cholesterol) and LDL (bad cholesterol) values and ratio. Lymphocytes (white blood cells) showed a more distinct short-term decrease following the intake of microwaved food than after the intake of all the other variants. Each of these indicators point in a direction away from robust health and toward degeneration.

Additionally, there was a highly significant association between the amount of microwave energy in the test foods and the luminous power of luminescent bacteria exposed to serum from test persons who ate that food. This led Hertel to the conclusion that such technically derived energies may indeed be passed along to man inductively via consumption of microwaved food.

An article appeared in the *Journal Franz Weber* (issue no. 19) in which it was stated that the consumption of food cooked in microwave ovens had cancer-type effects on the blood. The article was followed by the research paper itself.

On 7 August 1992, the Swiss Association of Manufacturers and Suppliers of Household Appliances brought an action against the applicant in the Canton of Berne Commercial Court. It produced an expert report by a professor at Zürich Federal Institute of Technology, from which it appeared that the applicant's research was worthless and his findings untenable.

As soon as Hertel and Blanc announced their results, the hammer of authority slammed down on them. A powerful trade organisation, the Swiss Association of Dealers in Electroapparatuses for Households and Industry, known simply as FEA, struck swiftly. They forced the President of the Court of Seftigen, Canton Bern, to issue a 'gag order' against Hertel and Blanc.

The attack was so ferocious that Blanc quickly recanted his support, but it was too late. He had already put into writing his views on the validity of the studies where he concurred with the opinion that microwaved food caused blood abnormalities. Hertel stood his ground, and today is steadfastly demanding his right to a trial. Preliminary hearings on the matter have been appealed to higher courts, and it's quite obvious the powers-that-be do not want a 'show trial' to erupt on this issue.

In March 1993, the court handed down this decision based upon the complaint of the FEA: "Consideration. 1. Request from the plaintiff (FEA) to prohibit the defendant (Dr Ing. Hans Hertel) from declaring that food prepared in the microwave oven shall be dangerous to health and lead to changes in the blood of consumers, giving reference to pathologic troubles as also indicative for the beginning of a cancerous process. The defendant shall be prohibited from repeating such a statement in publications and in public talks by punishment laid down in the law ... death in connection with microwave ovens."

However, in 1998 that decision was reversed. In a judgement delivered at Strasbourg on 25 August 1998 in the case of *Hertel v. Switzerland*, the European Court of Human Rights held that there had been a violation of Hertel's rights in the 1993 decision. Under Article 50 of the Convention, the Court awarded the applicant a specified sum for legal costs and expenses. The Court of Human Rights decided that the 'gag order' issued by the Swiss courts against the Bern scientist, prohibiting him from declaring that microwave ovens are dangerous to health, was contrary to the right to freedom of expression. In addition, Switzerland was ordered to pay compensation of F 40,000.

This decision is to put an end to judicial censorship of persons drawing attention to the health hazards of certain products.

(Source: Sheri Nakken, RN, MA, 29 December 1998, e-mail <wwithin@nccn.net>; check website <www.trufax.org/reports/report1.html>)